

Wisconsin Number 1 in Mink Pelt Production and Females Bred

Wisconsin continues to be a leader in the United States for mink pelt production and females bred. Mink pelt production in 2003 totaled 706,300, an increase of 3 percent from 2002. Wisconsin's pelt production accounted for 28 percent of the nation's total pelt production.

By color class, the number of pelts produced in Wisconsin as a percent of the state total were: Black - 54 percent; Blue Iris - 14 percent; Mahogany - 13 percent; White - 9 percent; Sapphire - 5 percent; and Pastel - 1 percent. The other 4 percent were colors that were not published to avoid disclosure of individual information.

Females bred in Wisconsin to produce kits in 2004 declined one percent to 168,900. This accounted for 28 percent of the U.S. total. The number of farms producing pelts in Wisconsin remained steady at 69.

Nationwide, mink pelt production during 2003 totaled 2.55 million pelts, down 2 percent from 2002. Mink pelts produced during the 2003 crop year were valued at \$102 million dollars, up 28 percent from \$79.8 million a year earlier. The average price per pelt for the 2003 crop year was \$40.10, the highest in eight years and \$9.50 above the 2002 price. There were 307 mink farms producing pelts in 2003, down 5 percent from a year earlier. Leading states were Utah with 80 farms, Wisconsin with 69 farms, and Minnesota with 31. There were 18 mink farms in the U.S. which also raised fox in 2003, down from 20 the previous year.

United States females bred to produce kits in 2004 totaled 604,800, up slightly from the previous year.

Wisconsin Mink

Year	Mink ranches	Females bred	Pelts produced	Average price 1/	Value pelts
	Number	Thousands		Dollars	Million dollars
1994	109	169	707	33.00	23.3
1995	107	185	786	53.10	41.7
1996	106	195	837	35.30	29.5
1997	103	197	835	33.10	27.6
1998	94	182	801	24.80	19.9
1999	82	166	732	33.70	24.7
2000	70	163	680	34.00	23.1
2001	69	161	672	33.50	22.5
2002	69	158	685	30.60	21.0
2003	69	170	706	40.10	28.3
2004	n.a.	169	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

N.a. = not available. 1/Average market price, U.S. Source: Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Service.